

Court Clears Reinecke Of One Perjury Count

By Janet Staihar

Associated Press

The Watergate special prosecutor's office has dropped one of three perjury counts against California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke, who is scheduled to go on trial here Monday.

U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker will hear defense arguments this morning on motions to dismiss the remaining two counts.

The prosecutor's office said it asked that the third count be dismissed because if the charge was pressed, it would be necessary to call former White House aide H. R. (Bob) Haldeman as a witness, and Haldeman is slated to go on trial in the Watergate case Sept. 9.

In Sacramento, Reinecke said the action by the special prosecutor was their way of saying, 'We don't have the case we thought we had.'

"I think this is just one more demonstration of what I been saying all along, that this

whole thing is politically inspired," he said.

Reinecke's Washington attorney, F. Joseph Donohue, said the government felt that because of the proximity of the two trials it would be unfair to call Haldeman as a witness in the Reinecke case.

The dismissed count alleged that Reinecke lied in hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee when he said he first discussed the possibility of bringing the 1972 Republican National Convention to San Diego at a Washington social reception in April, 1971.

At that reception to promote economic development in his state, "we discussed the possibility at that point and that was where the idea was really hatched," Reinecke had testified.

The prosecutor's office has said in other court papers that the first San Diego convention talk was with Haldeman, then the White House chief of staff.